

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00673 021433Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
/077 W

-----021438Z 094140 /47

O 021250Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6034
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0673

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US, XA
SUBJ: NAMIBIAN TALKS: CONVERSATION WITH FOURIE

1. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MET WITH DFA SECRETARY BRAND
FOURIE AT THE AIRPORT ON APRIL 30 JUST BEFORE LEAVING
CAPE TOWN. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS TWO ITEMS WHICH
THE CONTACT GROUP HAD DISCUSSED AT ITS CLOSING WORKING
SESSION WHICH HE WANTED TO PASS ON TO HIM
2. THE FIRST HAD TO DO WITH STATEMENTS TO REPORTERS ON THE
TALKS WHICH APPEARED IN THE SATURDAY CAPE TIMES (SEE CAPE TOWN
(0668) AND THE WEEKEND ARGUSM HE NOTED THAT THESE WERE ALL
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DATELINED WINDHOEK AND QUOTED SOURCES WHICH INDICATED THAT
MEMBERS OF THE TURNHALLE GROUP WHO HAD BEEN IN CAPE TOWN DURING
THE TALKS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMENTS. MCHENRY SAID IF
INACCURATE AND MISLEADING ACCOUNTS OF THE TALKS
WERE TO FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE NEWS MEDIA
OVERSEAS AHEAD OF THE BRIEFINGS OF OTHER INTERESTED
PARTIES, THE WRONG IMPRESSION WILL BE CREATED WHICH

COULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES. THE EXPERIENCE WITH THESE LEAKS, MCHENRY SUGGESTED, MIGHT MAKE IT DESIRABLE TO FIND A DIFFERENT FORMAT FOR FUTURE SESSIONS TO MINIMIZE THIS RISK. FOURIE MADE ONLY A HALF-HEARTED EFFORT IN DEFENSE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE TURNHALLE GROUP HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPECIFICS AND HAD LEFT TOWN THURSDAY BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLING WHAT THESE DELEGATES SAY TO THE PRESS.

3. AS A LEAD INTO THE SECOND POINT, MCHENRY NOTED THAT IN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS STATEMENTS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO TURNHALLE DELEGATES TO THE EFFECT THAT PLANS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD PROCEED. MCHENRY POINTED OUT THAT IN DEFINING THE NEW "ADMINISTRATIVE REARRANGEMENT" FOR THE PERIOD LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE, THE NOMENCLATURE, STRUCTURE, AND PERSONS SELECTED WILL BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE NEW "ARRANGEMENT" RESEMBLES THE TURNHALLE PROPOSALS, THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BECOME THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. FOURIE RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT THAT THE SAG HAD ONLY REACHED THE DECISION TO PURSUE THE "ADMINISTRATIVE REARRANGEMENT" COURSE A FEW DAYS AGO AND HAD NOT HAD TIME TO THINK THROUGH ALL ITS DETAILS. MCHENRY, AGAIN STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFIGURATION OF THE NEW "ARRANGEMENT," ASKED THAT THE SAG INFORM THE CG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE SPECIFICS.

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4. COMMENT: THE INFORMAL DEMARCHE DID NOT PRODUCE ANY CLEAR-CUT RESPONSE AND NONE WAS EXPECTED. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MADE THE POINTS AND A SEASONED PRO LIKE BRAND FOURIE GOT THE MESSAGE. BOWDLER

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